

REMARKS

Claims 9-19 remain pending in the application. No amendments have been made herein to the claims.

The Examiner has upheld the restriction requirement. The Examiner has further indicated that Applicants may change their election to that of Group I, comprising claims 9 and 13-19. Applicants do hereby request that this change in election be made. Accordingly, claims 9 and 13-19 are now presented to the Examiner for consideration, and claims 10-12 stand withdrawn from further consideration at this time.

In view of Applicants' change of election, the outstanding rejections are moot. Claims 9 and 13-19 meet the criteria for patentability; allowance of the application with these claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that a reference previously disclosed by Applicants, WO 93/22279, "was stricken from the IDS because of the absence of a translation." As Applicants pointed out in said IDS, while the specification of this international publication is in French, the document does contain an abstract in English, which abstract constitutes a concise explanation of the relevance of the document. Thus, Applicants met the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i), and the Examiner's

failure to consider the document, and to acknowledge such consideration, is inappropriate. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the first page of the cited document, containing the abstract, is provided herewith for consideration. A clean copy of the Form PTO-1449 originally submitted (on October 27, 2000) by Applicants is also provided herewith. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial the appropriate place on the Form PTO-1449 as acknowledgement of consideration of the submitted reference.

No fees should be due in connection with this communication. However, should it be determined that a fee is required for any reason, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge it to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: June 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures